the growth of labour intensive sectors such as Agriculture and Allied Activities, Food Processing, Rural Non-farm Sector, Small and Medium Enterprises and Services Sector including Health, Education, Information Technology & Communication. National Food for Work Programme, and the proposed Act on National Rural Employment Guarantee will generate additional demand for labour in the rural areas. These are applicable to all States including the State of Maharashtra.

Opening of still well road

*278. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China and India have lately been actively working on plans to reopen the still well road between the two countries through Myanmar, which would reduce the distance between the two nations from over 6,000 kms to just 1,300 kms;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter and the respective stand of India, Myanmar and China in regard thereto and how the benefits of increase in trade and facilities would be stored; and

(c) the steps taken and are being taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government of India has discussed the possibility of improving road connectivity with Myanmar and China. However, the question of reopening of Still well road has not been discussed.

Boats seized by Pakistani Security Agency

*279. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous problem of Indian fishermen and boats being taken into custody by the Pakistani Security